

a casing including a base wall, and a peripheral wall extending from a periphery of said base wall;

a main board disposed in said casing and mounted on said base wall of said casing; and

a touch pad module including:

a flexible touch pad unit mounted flexibly on said peripheral wall, said touch pad unit generating contact signals in response to operation thereof;

a control circuit unit separate from said touch pad unit, disposed in said casing, and coupled electrically to said main board, said control circuit unit receiving the contact signals and recognizing the contact signals as at least one of push button signals and volume control signals; and

an electrical coupling unit disposed in said casing and having a first end coupled to said touch pad unit and a second end coupled to said control circuit unit, said electrical coupling unit extending through said peripheral wall to be connected with said touch pad unit, said electrical coupling unit permitting transmission of the contact signals generated by the touch pad unit to said control circuit unit.

19. (new) The electronic device of claim 18, wherein said electrical coupling unit is a ribbon cable.

20. (new) A handheld electronic device having a touch pad function, comprising:

a casing including a base wall, and a peripheral wall extending from a periphery of said base wall;

a main board disposed in said casing and mounted on said base wall of said casing; and

a touch pad module including:

a flexible touch pad unit mounted flexibly on said peripheral wall, said touch pad unit generating contact signals in response to operation thereof,

a control circuit unit separate from said touch pad unit and separate from said main board, disposed in said casing, and coupled electrically to said main board,

an electrical coupling unit disposed in said casing and having a first end coupled to said touch pad unit and a second end coupled to said control circuit unit, said electrical coupling unit extending through said peripheral wall to be connected with said touch pad unit, said electrical coupling unit permitting transmission of the contact signals generated by the touch pad unit to said control circuit unit, and

a transmission interface electrically coupling said control circuit unit to said main board.

21. (new) The handheld electronic device of claim 20, wherein said control circuit unit receives the contact signals and recognizes the contact signals as at least one of push button signals and volume control signals.

22. (new) The handheld electronic device of claim 21, wherein said electrical coupling unit is a ribbon cable.